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SOURCE Romania Libera

ACTIVITIES OF RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S COUNCILS, SPRING 1953

[Summary: The following information, taken from Romania Libera,
 organ of the people's councils of Rumania, covers the organization,
 duties, and activities of people's councils, and errors which they
 have made in implementing self-taxation, agriculture, local in-
 dustry, cadre, and trade programs.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

I. ORGANIZATION

Rumanian people's councils include the following units: an agricultural
 section (1) or permanent agricultural commission (2) in agricultural areas,
 a health section, an organizations section (3), an executive committee (4),
 a cultural or art and cultural section, a teaching section (2), a trade sec-
 tion (5) or permanent commission for supply and trade (6), a communal admin-
 istration and local industry section (7), a permanent forestry culture com-
 mission in areas covered by forests (8), and a cadre section (9).

II. ACTIVITIES

A. Agricultural Section

Agricultural sections and permanent agricultural commissions implement
 government agricultural policy. In the spring, they mobilize peasants for
 spring planting and for the use of advanced methods in agriculture. The
 duties of agricultural sections in the spring campaign were specified in a
 decree issued by the Council of Ministers on 6 February 1953. The decree

- 1 -

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50X1-HUM

called upon the sections to mobilize the broad mass of workers in villages for spring work, and to keep a schedule for sowing, repair, seed selection, and assigning of work. The people's councils and their components must carry on widespread political and educational activity in order to mobilize peasants. Favorable weather has developed in Constanta, Craiova, Timisoara, Bucharest, Ploesti, and Pitesti regiunes. Therefore the people's councils in those regiunes must begin the mobilization.

Peasants must be educated to sow at the most favorable time. They must be taught advanced Soviet methods, and favorable conditions must be created in order that the peasants apply these methods. People's councils and agricultural units must supervise the observance of the provisions of the 6 February decree. Each section of people's councils can participate in this work: the cultural section through its cultural activities, the teaching section through teachers in individual villages, and the agricultural section by lending aid in technical matters.

Executive committees of people's councils must establish closer liaison with the masses, in addition to activating the party apparatus. They must have the support of working peasants, collectivists, and workers on state farms and in MTS. Executive committees must make use of permanent commissions, deputies, activists, party organizations, and mass organizations such as the UTM (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitoresc, Union of Working Youth), the UFDR (Uniunea Femeilor Democratice din Romania, Union of Rumanian Democratic Women), the ARLUS (Asociatia Romana pentru Legaturile de prietenie cu Uniunea Sovietica, Soviet-Rumanian Friendship Society), the SRSC (Societatea pentru Raspandirea Stiintei si Culturii, Society for the Dissemination of Science and Culture), and Mitchurin clubs.(2)

The executive committees of raion people's councils must devote themselves to the supervision and enforcement of work pertaining to the spring agricultural campaign. The multiple duties of the executive committees of people's councils maintain a rigorous control over every phase of the campaign and check observance of rules by personal reconnaissance in fields.

In addition to supervision and organization, executive committees of people's councils must concern themselves with political work. Deputies must mobilize peasants for work; the permanent commissions, particularly the permanent agricultural commission, must lead this mobilization. Commune people's councils must have meetings to engage in criticism and self-criticism. Every week, public meetings must be organized in cultural centers to intensify agricultural work. Large displays and daily progress charts must be set up. Executive committees must do everything to popularize new methods. They must lead peasants in communes to maintain a spirit of class vigilance against kulak tools. Any kind of kulak sabotage must be unmasked at general meetings, so that each peasant may know the tools of the enemy class and may increase his vigilance.(9)

As local organs of state power, the people's councils are responsible for putting the decrees of the government and the party into effect during the spring agricultural campaign. The people's councils must activate permanent commissions and activists of citizens. Experience has shown that executive committees of people's councils can fulfill agricultural campaign tasks only by maintaining a strict and organic liaison with the working masses. This is accomplished by tens of thousands of people's deputies through personal contact.

The executive committees of people's councils must support permanent committees on all levels. At monthly meetings of people's councils, particularly on the raion level, permanent agricultural commissions must

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

cooperate in preparing a critical analysis of the work of the executive committee in the fulfillment of plan tasks. To achieve this, deputies, together with activists of permanent agricultural commissions, must make a thorough study of the manner in which agricultural tasks are being fulfilled. Commune executive committees must invite chairmen of permanent agricultural committees and the most active deputies to their weekly meetings to analyze the progress of work. Deputies of people's councils have a role of the greatest significance in the carrying out of political work among the masses. Collectives of agitators must be organized to convince peasants of the value of early plan fulfillment.

One of the primary objectives of the agitation work carried on by deputies must be the application of Soviet agricultural methods for crop and animal raising. Deputies must concentrate on socialist units in agriculture, particularly collectives.(10)

Deputies of commune people's councils in Baia-Mare Regiune are setting an excellent example by carrying a sustained drive to convince each peasant that the delivery of his quota is his highest patriotic duty.(11) In Constanta Regiune, SRSC affiliates organized more than 700 meetings on agriculture in support of the executive committee of the regiune people's council, in preparation for the spring sowing campaign. About 50,000 peasants attended these meetings.(12)

B. Health Section

Health sections of people's councils sponsor lectures on health education and set up maternity homes and health stations. For example, the health section of the Gheorghiu-Dej Raion people's council in Bucharest presented 8,987 lectures on health education, and set up a maternity home in Chijana and a health station, staffed with medical personnel, in Dragomirest-Vale. In Caransebes Raion, the people's council set up a maternity home in Bucosnita and a dispensary and a children's home in Teregova, and planned 14 additional children's homes. A new children's hospital was set up in the raion, two medical dispensaries were set up in Cavarana and Garana, and a first aid station was set up in Varciorova.(3)

C. Self-Taxation

In the spring, a primary duty of people's councils is the assessment and collection of self-taxation. Self-taxation was one of the most important problems discussed at the seventh meeting of the people's council of Stalin Regiune. A report presented by deputy Ion Oros, secretary of the executive committee of the regiune people's council, gave evidence of achievements obtained since the previous annual council meeting. He declared that self-taxation had permitted the building of 26 cultural centers, 28 new schools, 3 dispensaries, public baths, and 2 maternity houses, and had permitted the electrification of five villages in Stalin Regiune. In Cluj Regiune, self-taxation led to the construction of 42 elementary schools, 49 small bridges, 10 cultural centers, 3 dispensaries, and public baths. Ghilau and Baci Communes and Garbau village in Turea Commune have been electrified. In 1953, further work will be carried out in Aschileu, Dangau, Cojocna, and Sanraiu-Almasului.(1)

The commune people's council in Muscel mobilized workers to perform tasks financed by self-taxation. Forty-two committees elected by people's meetings in 1952 completed 42 of 66 projects undertaken. These projects included erection of a sulfur-iodine bath in Candesti, construction of an 8-meter wooden bridge in Laicai, repair of a wooden bridge in Lucieni, construction of two bridges over the Targu River at Valea-Pechi and Burnesti, and the building of

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

schools, cultural centers, etc.(13) The Costanta Regiune people's council aided individual communes in obtaining materials from local resources through self-taxation. By this means they built a cultural center. The executive committee of the Luncavita Commune people's council, Macin Raion, used money from self-taxation to procure piped drinking water to this area, which formerly lacked potable water.(4)

D. Organizations Section

The executive committee of the people's council of Bacau Regiune set up a training course for instructors of organizations sections of the regiune and raion people's councils. This course is presented by members of the executive committee of the regiune people's council and by activists of the regiune party committee. The lectures concern practical problems, such as methods of organizing people's council meetings or executive committee meetings, supervision over the manner in which decrees are fulfilled, etc. Each lecture is followed by a seminar. This course will aid instructors to orient themselves more properly in the fulfillment of the duties of people's councils.(3)

E. Art and Cultural Section

The art and cultural section of the Stalin Raion people's council organized a series of scientific conferences in villages. At Barcani, for example, more than 400 people attended a lecture on "The Origin and Evolution of Man," presented by scientists sent by the SRSC. Similar conferences were held at Sita-Buzaului, Moeciu, Sohodol, and other mountain villages.(5) Motion picture caravans sponsored by the cultural section of the Bucharest Regiune people's council were sent throughout the regiune. Between 15 February and 5 March 1953, motion picture caravans presented 53 shows in Vida, Snagov, Mihailesti, Branesti, and Racari raions. More than 24,000 persons attended. Agricultural and documentary films were shown.(8) The same cultural section set up the first Rumanian club for the dissemination of scientific knowledge. The club is equipped with an observatory and a physics-chemistry laboratory.(13)

F. Trade Section

The trade section of the executive committee of the 23 August Raion people's council in Bucharest has devoted itself to increasing the variety of goods and improving operating conditions at food and textile stores. One of the chief concerns of the trade section is the fulfillment of contracts with suppliers. Contracts were drawn up with suppliers in Dobroesti and Pantelimon, Bucharest Regiune, for the delivery of vegetables and fruit from 75 hectares of land during the summer of 1953. The trade section of the executive committee planned 13 ice centers, 25 cold-storage buildings, new shops, and 10 bread centers. In addition, enlargement of 33 buildings housing shops was planned.(5)

The trade section of the Caransebes Raion people's council supervised the building of a food shop, mostly from local materials. The section was concerned with stocking all kinds of food products. In Otelul-Rosu Commune, a shop was set up in 1952 and two restaurants were organized.(8)

The strict liaison that exists between deputies and electors in Oradea city is evidence of the fact that the permanent supply and trade commission is recognizing and solving trade and supply problems brought before the executive committee of the city people's council. The commission has devoted special attention to the workers' food supply. For example, the executive committee was informed that a food shop was not needed in the center of the city. It was suggested that the shop be moved to an area more accessible to workers. As a result, a food shop was set up on strada Karl Marx.

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

An improvement was effected at the 30 Decembrie cooperative, where the sales personnel did not have the proper attitude toward buyers. The permanent commission for supply and trade sponsored a good service brigade which remedied the situation.(6)

There are two displays, showing daily sales of industrial goods and food products, at the office of the trade section of the Stalin Regiune people's council. As a result of the prominent place given these daily records, 2,590 employees of trade units were drawn into competitions. Consequently, 8 percent more bread, 45 percent more sugar, and 24 percent more meat preparations were sold in Stalin Regiune than planned? during the fourth quarter of 1952. In January 1953, the supply plan was fulfilled 103 percent and the sales plan 102.6 percent at trade units.(14)

G. Communal Administration and Local Industry Section

During 1952, many commune people's councils and raion people's councils succeeded in making self-taxation more effective by discovering and using local resources. In Hunedoara Regiune, for example, 174 projects of local interest were built with local construction materials, such as beams, brick, planks, lime, laths, etc.(10) Raion people's councils are responsible for the development and sale of local resources. By this means, they can improve the supply of consumer goods, increase construction, or beautify their areas.(8) The procurement of the maximum amount of local materials possible to expand local construction and to beautify cities and rural villages must be a chief concern of executive committees of people's councils.(10)

The people's councils of Braila, Galati, and Filimon Sarbu raions, Galati Regiune, were outstanding in stimulating the production of consumer goods from local resources. In Satu-Mare, for example, more than 600 items were manufactured from materials of the commune. Great success was also obtained in Ramnicul-Valecea.(6) The people's council of Targu-Mures city rebuilt numerous houses destroyed during the war and constructed 14 blocks of workers' houses in the Oancea quarter from local brick and tile. Uriueni Commune built a bridge over Cotmeana brook and repaired an old bridge in Malu village. Since these projects were carried out with local labor and materials, the central state fund was saved 80,000 lei.(10) In Ploesti Regiune, Pauc (fnu), chairman of the Doicesti Commune people's council, was outstanding in encouraging the use of local resources.(11)

Many people's councils throughout Rumania have made a sustained effort to utilize small waterways for the production of electric power for local needs. They are also reconditioning old locomotives, wood-burning turbines, and unused electrical equipment to produce electricity. In Iara, Cluj Regiune, people's councils are utilizing peat, lignite, and other local fuels to run power stations. As a result of the efforts of the people's councils in Cetatea-de-Balta, Borsoc, and other areas throughout Rumania, about three times as many villages were electrified in 1952 as in 1951. In fact, 83 percent of the state farms, 78 percent of the MTS, and 503 threshing floors were electrified in Craiova, Cluj, Bacau, and Ploesti regiunes during 1951 and 1952.(15)

H. Forestry Commission

The permanent forestry culture commission of the Succava Regiune people's council is carrying out research to determine possibilities for forestry improvement. While investigating afforestation and wood products output, the commission ascertained that various exotic trees, such as the rapid-growing eucalyptus, grew in the regiune. It also discovered that these trees could be used to create forests of more rapid growth.(8)

- 5 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

III. PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS

A. Meetings

Meetings are an important part of the activity of people's councils. Commune people's councils in particular can utilize meetings to strengthen their bond with the masses and to liquidate bureaucracy by inviting peasants to participate. Commune people's councils ordinarily meet every month. The success of these meetings depends in large measure on the manner in which they are prepared and organized. The meeting of the Frumusica Commune people's council, Iasi Regiune, serves as an example of proper preparation and organization.

The Frumusica meeting was announced 10 days in advance so that deputies and guests might have time to prepare for participation. All agenda pertaining to spring preparation in agriculture were prepared in advance. Consequently, numerous deputies and guests were able to join the discussion, to criticize the executive committee for its mistakes, and to make concrete suggestions for improvement.

However, many commune people's councils did not prepare for meetings. These meetings, therefore, did not constitute an important factor in carrying on the work. In Piatra-Olt, for example, the people's council did not prepare for its meetings. Sometimes the meetings were held 4-5 days ahead of schedule. People's councils of Tatarai Commune, Ploesti Regiune; of Feldiora, Stalin Regiune; of Smardan, Galati Regiune; and of other areas held meetings without the necessary two thirds quorum present. Commune people's councils must avoid such practices and must establish a particular day each month for meetings. They must take cognizance of the most urgent political and economic problems of a particular month. Among the most important tasks for 1953 are preparation for the spring sowing campaign, the 1953 local budget, and organization of self-taxation.(5)

B. Liaison

Liaison between deputies and executive committees is a very important part of the activity of people's councils. Success in the operation of local organizations which represent state power depends in large measure on the manner in which this problem is handled. Where this liaison is lacking there can be no effective work. For example, some time ago the activity of the Miraslay Commune people's council was bureaucratic and devoid of reality. Permanent commissions of the council existed only on paper.

However, the executive committee of the Aiud Raion people's council reorganized activities in Miraslay to overcome these errors. At a meeting of the executive committee of the commune people's council, to which the chairman and secretaries of the permanent commissions were invited, the situation was analyzed and measures were taken to activate permanent commissions. With the aid of these permanent commissions, it was possible to do more work to attract the masses to agriculture. Raion deputy Ispas Galantion set a personal example by his diligence in recruiting peasants.

Another activity in which there is liaison between the executive committee and deputies is in the strengthening of collectives. Individual deputies must carry on intensive work among peasants to strengthen collectives and to form new TOZ. As a result of a proposal by deputy Ispas Emilian, the commune people's council set up a pharmaceutical section in the local cooperative. This section was equipped with health items, medicines, medical instruments, etc. Deputy Niculae Gurza proposed construction of a bridge over the Cicaului

- 6 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

River, and repair of the Lopadea Veche-Rachis road. These projects, now being studied by the Miraslay people's council, will lead to better health among collectivists and will facilitate their transportation problems.(16)

C. Duties of Chairmen

Chairmen of commune people's councils play an especially important role in the work of administering communes throughout the country. They are directly responsible for putting the party political line into practice in villages, thus contributing to the alliance between workers and peasants. In addition, they constitute a sure source of support for the party in the development of agriculture. The power and vitality of the people's councils lies in the fact that they are led by the party, and that they were created and developed by the party.

The chairman of the commune people's council must maintain strict liaison with collectivists, with agricultural workers, and with peasants. He must maintain vigilance against any attempt at sabotage by kulaks, and must educate members of the executive committee, the deputies, the employees of the people's councils, and peasants, in the spirit of revolutionary vigilance. He must work to strengthen collectives and to form new TOZ. He must supervise all plan fulfillments under his jurisdiction and organize the entire activity of the executive committee. He must use the rich experience of his Soviet counterparts. To assure a rich harvest, he will have to struggle to make the spring agricultural sowing campaign a success. Another chief duty is agitation in preparation for calling general meetings on the subject of self-taxation.(12)

IV. CRITICISM

A. Self-Taxation

Many errors were made by people's councils in 1952, the first year of self-taxation. For example, executive committees of regiune, raion, and commune people's councils failed to appreciate the important role of general meetings in Galati, Iasi, Bucharest, and other regiunes. These executive committees operated from their offices without carrying on a thorough indoctrination of the masses and without organizing conferences at which voters and deputies could meet.

In 1953, people's councils should consider meetings to encourage self-taxation as one of their primary tasks. These meetings should be arranged at least 10 days in advance. They should be devoted to suggestions, to a discussion of local resources, and to criticism, as well as to self-taxation. Councils should organize teams of agitators to go from house to house and discuss self-taxation thoroughly with each family.(7)

Numerous errors in self-taxation occurred in Stalin Regiune in 1952. The regiune executive committee, headed by Vasile Lixandru, failed to create a permanent committee on self-taxation. As a result, only 62 percent of the planned amount had been collected by 24 February 1953. Only half of the tax collected was put to use. Raion executive committees were not sufficiently controlled. In some raions, self-taxation was handled in a bureaucratic manner. In Sibiu Raion, for example, 350 nonexistent families were signed up for self-taxation because no check was made. In Medias Raion, only 14 of 31 communes elected citizens' committees. Men sent to the field to supervise the collection of self-taxation paid too little attention to local conditions. Consequently, some executive committees were forced to add money from central funds to meet the self-taxation quota.

- 7 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

No commissions were appointed to investigate the use of local resources obtained through self-taxation. In Saliste, Sibiu Raion, the executive committee failed to mobilize peasants for self-taxation collection.(1)

In Braila Raion, the executive committee of the people's council failed to appreciate the importance of mass political work in the collection of self-taxation. The raion council did not require commune councils to carry on a sustained education drive to convince peasants of the value of meeting their self-taxation quotas. Consequently, there was a serious lag in collections in Braila Raion.

The executive committee of the Braila Raion people's council operated in a bureaucratic manner, issuing verbal and written directives in regard to the collection of self-taxation without stressing the value of political work among peasants. Nothing at all was collected in Pitulati, Valea-Canepei, Traian, Urleasca, Racovita, and other communes of the raion. The executive committee of the Braila Raion people's council did not require commune councils to make full use of local resources. It failed to appoint permanent commissions for communal administration and local industry and citizens' activists to investigate local resources. As a result, no local materials could be purchased with money collected from self-taxation in Gemelele, Tichilesti, and other communes.

In communes where local construction materials were procured promptly, the materials were not used for long periods because the raion executive committee was late in providing funds and technicians for the construction. In some communes, the materials deteriorated because they remained in the open for long periods. An even more serious error in the use of materials procured through self-taxation occurred in Chiscani Commune. The walls of the Chiscani cultural center, set up without the direction of a specialist, collapsed after the first rain.

All of these serious errors were a result of the bureaucratic work of the executive committees of raion people's councils, and of their failure to maintain liaison with the masses.

The Braila people's council, to avoid further error, must send well prepared, experienced delegates to communes to assist commune people's councils in organizing self-taxation. Raion deputies must be persuaded to hold meetings with voters of their electoral districts in order to point out past mistakes in self-taxation and to avoid similar ones in 1953.(17)

B. Agriculture

Executive committees of people's councils must maintain strict liaison with the working masses in the field of agriculture. The executive committee which does not understand this is responsible for serious lags in preparation for the spring campaign. In Stalin Raion, Stalin Regiune, and in Calmatiu, Macin, and Braila raions, Galati Regiune, the full force of agricultural workers was not mobilized, and preparation for sowing was not carried out on time. It is not a coincidence that the lags occurred in regiunes where the executive committees did not concern themselves with setting up permanent agricultural and other commissions.(10) Iosif Pop, chief of the Stalin Regiune agricultural section, stated that preparation for spring planting in the regiune was irregular. By 24 February, no plans had been submitted and only 64 percent of the planned number of contracts had been drawn up with MTS.(1)

- 8 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

In Caransebes Raion, there is a serious lag in preparation for spring sowing. This is due in large measure to the fact that the executive committee of the raion people's council was not concerned with the activities of deputies, and did nothing to strengthen liaison with the peasants. The activities of deputies in spring preparations were not discussed at a raion council meeting. Deputies such as Petru Fritz of Caransebes, Ion Lungulescu of Sacu, and Petru Carabus of Cavarau did not show sufficient interest in the duties of the executive committee. The poor liaison between deputies and executive council has resulted in a complete lack of written suggestions on the part of the deputies. There is no permanent agricultural commission. The raion executive committee has fallen down on the job, with the result that there are numerous deficiencies in repair, sowing, spring preparation, and application of advanced methods.(2)

People's councils on the commune level cannot carry out their duties in the spring campaign without the supervision and aid of raion executive committees. For example, the Dej Raion, Cluj Regiune, executive committee has failed to support its communes. Several meetings were held in preparation for the spring campaign, but no practical matters were discussed. Edmund Reisman, chairman of the raion executive committee, was one of the very few raion officials interested enough to make a personal investigation in the fields. Raion instructor Ion Dudescu, who supervises activities of executive committees in Teteag, Cusdriora, Ciceu-Mihaiesti, Ciceru-Giurgesti, and Negrilesti communes, Dej Raion, did not make a single inspection of agricultural preparations. Technician Filip Stroe, chairman Pavel Csontos, and other members of the raion agricultural section likewise failed to visit the fields. As a result of this lack of support, the agricultural plan was fulfilled 11 days late and only with much difficulty.

In addition, agricultural agents Ion Muresan, Adam Feher, and Ion Oprea failed to give accurate statistics on arable land available. They failed to check the exact boundary between communes in Beclean and Dej raions.(15)

In 1952, the Segaracea Raion people's council made numerous errors in the assignment of agricultural engineers and technicians. In 1953, the executive committee of the raion is repeating this error. It is losing sight of the fact that the chief role of the agricultural engineer and technician is to aid peasants in applying Soviet methods. Although this people's council has many engineers and technicians, they are not being used properly. Consequently, their work has been poor and they have neglected the cotton crop.(4)

C. Cadre

The Cluj Regiune people's council is rotating personnel in a haphazard manner, as though impelled by inspiration rather than logic. Frequently the committee assigns specialists without regard for their field of specialty. For example, medical technicians are assigned as agricultural engineers or directors of a chorus. Anything is possible. There is the case of agricultural engineer Cateli (fnu), for example. In June 1952, he was sent to work at the Surduv MTS. Actually he was a specialist in fruit and viticulture and was unable to do mechanical work at the MTS. When he requested a transfer, he was given another unsuitable position, that of chief mechanic of Gherla Raion.(11)

The cadre section of the Harlau Raion people's council received Circular No 12,868 on leave for higher office workers. Since there were no workers of this category in Frusita Commune, it was impossible to conform with the provisions of the circular when it was forwarded by the raion council. Furthermore, the chairman of the raion people's council criticized the Frusita Commune council in regard to situations which do not exist in the commune, and showed complete ignorance of the responsibilities of commune councils.(9)

- 9 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

D. Local Industry

The executive committee of the Tecuci Raion people's council did very little to encourage the growth of the local economy. The people's council issued a "theory" that there was no possibility of developing local industry in the raion. Because of the "theory," the executive committee broke with the masses and remained deaf to proposals by workers. No action has been taken on requests for engine parts needed to place a mill back in operation in Barcea. No effort has been made to develop the local economy.(15)

Numerous executive committees of raion people's councils throughout Rumania have not fully understood the necessity of creating a firm basis of local economy. Executive committees have worked in a bureaucratic manner, withdrawing materials from central stockpiles instead of contributing to these stockpiles through the use of local resources. They have failed to realize that more and more of the needs of workers in villages and cities will be met from local resources.(8)

The executive committee of the Suceava Raion people's council does too much work from the office in a bureaucratic manner, and does not encourage suggestions for the use of local resources. Suggestions for setting up a bread sales center, for the use of stones from the Suceava River bed for road repair, and for the use of other local materials have been ignored. Raion deputies Vasile Lungu and Vasile Donici have done nothing in this regard since their election.

It is time that the deputies of the Itcani people's council and of the Suceava Raion people's council drop their attitude of indifference toward their work and fulfill their obligations toward their electors. Deputies should welcome suggestions for, and decree the use of, local resources to raise the local standard of living.(13)

Both the communal administration and local industry section and the executive committee of the Buzau Raion people's council have neglected the repair of roads leading to the Berca oil field. C. Baboi, vice-chairman of the executive committee and chairman of the communal administration and local industry section, has pointed out that the road between wells in Arvanas and the Berca field were repaired by local labor with local materials in 1952. However, he has no other successes to report. In general, roads leading to the oil field are in poor condition. The Prahova Regiune Construction Enterprise has neglected them. The raion executive committee has placed oil field roads on a secondary level; it has failed to support and supervise the work of the communal administration and local industry section, and it did not call upon the local population to work on the roads.(13) In Radauti and Falticeni, the people's councils neglected maintenance of local roads. Saveni and Daraveni raion people's councils also showed a condemnable negligence in the use of local materials, such as clay, for the upkeep of roads.(8)

E. Trade and Supply

The work of commercial sections of people's councils in Stalin Regiune has not been adequate. The over-all supply situation in the regiune is unsatisfactory. Much more must be done in this regard. A sufficient supply of goods for the people is one of the chief concerns of the government. The duties of commercial sections are difficult and complex and require much work in the field. However, Stalin Regiune commercial sections solve problems from the office without any personal investigations. Consequently, numerous errors have occurred. For example, the commercial section of Stalin city was the last agency to discover that shops of the city were refusing to sell certain items, claiming that these items were in short supply. Actually there was a plentiful supply in storage. Commercial units no longer organize meetings at which salesmen and office staffs can express criticism. Shop

- 10 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

supply plans are not fulfilled. Contracts with producers are not observed. Thus, the procurement plan for the fourth quarter of 1953 was fulfilled only 58 percent for products from local resources. A delegation from the Ministry of Domestic Trade ascertained that Andrei Clej, chief of the commercial section of Stalin city, did not know who was director of the local department store.

The lack of understanding of liaison with the masses is evident in many aspects of the work of the commercial section. Andrei Clej, in a 12-page report, neglected to mention the permanent commission for trade. Nicolae Cleju and Gheorghe Samson, who hold responsible positions under the city commercial section, did not even know the name of the chairman of the regiune permanent commission for trade. The executive committee of the regiune is chiefly to blame for this, since the permanent commission is entirely inactive. Martin Lutch, chairman of the commission, did not attend the seventh meeting of the Stalin Regiune people's council, and only eight of the 14 deputies were present.

Thus the work of the Stalin Regiune trade section is unsatisfactory. Vasile Alexandru, chairman of the executive committee of the regiune people's council, has not made an analysis of the work of the trade section since August 1952.

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- 11 -

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14. Ibid., 25 Mar 53
15. Ibid., 27 Mar 53
16. Ibid., 21 Mar 53
17. Ibid., 31 Mar 53

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- 12 -

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